

Remarks

By this Amendment, claims 1-15 are pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8 and 10-12 as being anticipated by JP Pat 08300673 (Hosaka et al). All remaining claims were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.


The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection made by the Examiner. Specifically, claims 1 and 12 now specify that compression of the sealing part in the passageway causes the channel-like depression to have a reduced cross-section. New claim 14 corresponds to original claim 1, but now specifies that channel-like depressions are now in the sidewall of the sealing part.

The patents cited by the Examiner all have vent apertures through the middle of the sealing part. These apertures are not compressed to have a smaller cross section, nor are they in the cross sidewall of the sealing part.

The claims are allowable over the prior art. Favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain and the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation will resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

A one-month extension of time accompanies this Response. If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,


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